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### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

ON Wednesday, 9th inst., Gade's can-  
tata "The Erl King's Daughter,"  
was rendered by the Victoria Choral  
Society, under the capable leadership of  
Mr. W. Edgar Buck, the occasion being  
also that of the Society's debut. The  
programme both in the ensemble and solo  
pieces gave evidence of careful training  
and true artistic perception. As Sir  
Olerf, Mr. J. G. Brown was heard to de-  
cided advantage, rendering as he did his  
particularly difficult part with great *eclat*.  
His singing of the ballad "When thro'  
the Meadows of Tender Green," was pos-  
sibly not up to the standard of the rest of  
his part, it being of much more *sostenuto*  
nature than any other portion of his lines.  
Mrs. Rickaby, as the Mother, gave evi-  
dence of a considerable amount of study  
on her part. This was this lady's first  
appearance before a Victoria audience,  
and she succeeded in making, on the  
whole, a favorable impression. Her voice  
is not as mellow as it might be, but con-  
traltos are not to be picked up at a  
moment's notice. Miss Heathfield, in  
the title role, had not quite so much work  
as her two colleagues; but what she did  
was done well. Her voice is hardly up to  
the more trying parts, and consequently  
she was obliged to rush the time, which

decidedly detracted from the effect which  
the composer evidently intended. The  
choruses were all rendered in perfect time,  
showing that the conductor had his chorus  
well in hand. The rendering of the  
morning hymn was, perhaps, the piece de  
resistance of the evening chorale.

The Erl King's Daughter is decidedly a  
heavy piece of work, and, considering  
that fact and also the fact that it requires  
a considerable time to really see and hear  
the various beauties that lie hidden within  
the composition, Mr. Buck is to be con-  
gratulated on the pleasing effect wafted to  
the audience by his choir at their first  
concert.

The second part of the programme con-  
sisted of four glees sung by the Society, of  
which the best was undoubtedly the  
"Miller's Wooing," the two choral solos  
in this piece sung by sopranos and basses  
respectively, giving a virile effect only to  
be found after constant practice. Mr. F.  
Victor Austin played Mendelssohn's  
"Allegro Appassionata" with much exe-  
cution, but, unfortunately, not quite  
correctly. His bowing is almost perfect,  
but his manner puts the back of the audi-  
ence against him; this is to be very  
greatly regretted, as his bowing and  
execution are capital. Miss Nellie  
Devereux and Mr. Buck rendered the  
duett "L'Addio," by Donizetti, artisti-  
cally and with much expression, and well  
deserved the warm recall they received.  
Miss Devereux's voice gives promise of  
still greater improvement and gratifying  
success, if it continues as it has in the last  
three months. Miss Dawson's playing is  
too well known to be much commented  
upon. It remains to be said that she did  
not at all impair the high reputation she  
has already made for herself in this city.  
The audience treated this lady to an  
ovation after the last note had been struck,  
but she felt too much fatigued to play  
another piece after her exertions as ac-  
companist. The "Gypsies' Laughing  
Song," sung by Miss Jameson, Mrs.  
Harris and Mr. Buck, received an *encore*,  
but the music is weak—not having any  
depth to it, the whole point being the  
various hah hahs. This brought the pro-  
gramme to a close. A. B. C.

At the concert to be given next  
Thursday, May 17, in the Metropolitan  
Methodist church, the soloists in the  
"Creation" will be Mr. J. G. Brown,  
Mr. A. S. Aspland, Mr. W. E. Buck,  
Miss Bertha Jameson, Miss Amina Wey,  
while Miss Nellie Devereux and Miss  
Wey will divide honors in Mendelssohn's  
cantata "Hear my Prayer." Mr. W.  
Edgar Buck will conduct. Mrs. Drury  
and Mr. J. E. Bridgman accompanists,  
and Mr. Ernest Wolf will contribute  
violin solos.

Joseph R. Grismer and Phoebe Davies  
have not been seen in this city since the  
first week in November, 1891. They  
have always been favorites in Victoria  
and no doubt their reappearance here  
on the evening of Saturday, May 19,  
will be the occasion of a large turnout at  
the theatre. The New South is pro-  
nounced a true picture of life in the  
Southern States as it exists at the present  
day.

Of the Chicago Lady Quartette which  
is soon to appear at The Victoria, the  
Winnipeg Tribune says: "Their en-

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